



STORM EVENTS

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ITD Quarterly Stormwater Newsletter

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Promoting Responsible Stormwater Management Practices Throughout the Idaho Transportation Department

Oily Substance Observed in the Lower Boise River

On May 6, 2010, Boise citizens observed an oily substance flowing into the Boise River and immediately notified officials. The Boise Fire Department responded and placed oil absorbent booms around the storm drain entering the Boise River.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) tested the oily substance and identified it as motor oil. Crews continued to monitor the storm drain entering the river and replacing the booms as necessary. The source of the motor oil was not identified.

The Ada County Highway District (ACHD) is responsible for maintaining the complex storm drain system (MS4) that stretches from the river all the way up to Hull's Gulch. After the substance was reported, ACHD crews began the arduous task of walking the storm drain network trying to identify the source of the oily substance. Once ACHD identifies the source, it can go to the IDEQ or the city, both of which may have enforcement authority, depending on where the source is coming from.

Stormwater that runs into the storm drains on Boise's streets does not get treated at wastewater treatment plants, however, it will eventually make its way to the Boise River.

Partners for Clean Water, which ITD is a part of, has some tips for keeping pollution out of storm drains:

- If you do need to get rid of used motor oil, you can take it to one of your community's mobile collection sites or call your local landfill for disposal procedures.
- Take unusable paints, thinners, and household chemicals to any hazardous waste drop-off site.
- Wash latex paint brushes in the sink or toilet
- Wash your car on the lawn or go to a car wash. Use biodegradable soaps.
- Wash tools or equipment over grass or soil-covered area where wash water will not enter the storm drain system.
- Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalks.
- Do not place pet waste in a gutter or storm drain.

Oil absorbent booms are deployed along the Lower Boise River to contain a recent oil flow from the MS4



EPA Extends the 2008 Construction General Permit by One Year

The Construction General Permit (CGP) is an NPDES permit issued under the authority of the Clean Water Act. The CGP regulates the discharge of stormwater from construction sites that disturb one acre or more of land and discharge to waters of the United States.

EPA issued the current CGP in July of 2008. The permit was issued for a two-year term and was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2010. In January 2010, EPA modified the CGP in order to extend the 2 year term of the 2008 CGP by one year so that it expires on June 30, 2011 instead of June 30, 2010.

EPA's rationale for extending the 2008 CGP involves the new Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELGs) for Discharges from the Construction and Development Industry. The first phase of the ELGs will become effective in August 2011. Based on the timing of the new ELGs, EPA decided to extend the 2008 CGP by one year in order to incorporate the ELGs into the new CGP.

Test Your Stormwater Management I.Q.:

1. True or False. The project Notices of Intent (NOIs) must be posted on the main site entrance signage.
2. How long is the waiting period after an NOI has been submitted to EPA?
3. As defined by the CGP, what is the range of annual precipitation associated with an "arid" area?
4. What does 'MS4' stand for?

ITD STORMWATER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Q1: Is there a formal policy on how ITD should handle Stormwater Compliance Inspections at the end of construction? For example, is there a standard policy that the District maintenance staff would take over inspection responsibilities at end of construction while the project awaits achievement of final stabilization?

A1: There is not a formal policy on how the Districts address the transition from active construction to awaiting final stabilization. Whether a District chooses to transition inspection responsibilities from construction staff to maintenance staff is a District decision at this point. Either way, it is imperative that the inspections occur within the timeframes specified in CGP and the Consent Decree and that they be conducted by a qualified environmental inspector.

Q2: If a District has just hired a new resident engineer (RE), how quickly does the new RE need to complete the RE NPDES Stormwater Management Course mandated by the Consent Decree?

A2: Per Paragraph 3 of the Consent Decree, all REs newly employed by ITD or attaining those positions after entry into the Consent Decree shall comply with the RE training requirements specified in Paragraph 2 and Appendix A within sixty (60) days of assuming the position.

Q3: Per the CGP Part 4.B, inspection frequency can be reduced to once every 30 days if the entire site is temporarily stabilized. Does the Consent Decree requirement to inspect within 24 hours of a rain event of 0.5 inches or greater within a 24 hour period still apply?

A3: Yes. The Consent Decree applies to any project that has coverage under the CGP. Even though construction is over, the project is still covered under the CGP until final stabilization is achieved AND the notice of termination (NOT) is submitted by ITD District staff. Per the Paragraph 7 of the Consent Decree, the project shall be inspected within 24 hours after the conclusion of a rain event and every 24 hours during an extended rain event.

Quiz Answers:

1. True. Refer to CGP Part 5.11.B for list of items which must be attached to the main site entrance signage.
2. The typical waiting period after an NOI has been submitted and when the operator receives the permit tracking number is seven days, after which the operator may begin soil disturbing activities.
3. Per CGP Appendix A, arid areas receive an average annual precipitation of 0-10 inches.
4. MS4 stands for 'Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System' and is the permit associated with stormwater management for municipalities.

BMP-3.7 PERIMETER PROTECTION (Temporary)

ITD Standard Specifications, Section 212. ITD Standard Special Provisions, Section 718. ITD Standard Drawings, P-1-B, P-1-D, and P-1-E.

Description. Perimeter protection (silt fences) consists of geotextile material stretched and is attached to supporting posts that assist in sediment containment by capturing most of the eroded soil particles (sediment) and slowing the runoff velocity to allow particle settling. Welded wire fabric backing may be necessary, with several types of geotextile commonly used. Other perimeter protection measures such as fiber wattles and vegetative buffer strips are effective in capturing sediment. These measures can be used individually or in combination depending on the situation.

Applications. Silt fences can be used near the downslope perimeter of a disturbed area to intercept sediment while allowing water to pass through. If proper temporary soil stabilization and erosion control BMPs are installed on the disturbed surface upslope from the silt fence, little or no erosion should occur. The fences should remain in place until the disturbed area is permanently revegetated and stabilized. Silt fences can also be used along the toe of fills, on the downhill side of large cut areas, along streams, and at natural drainage areas to reduce the quantity of sediment and dissipate flow velocities to downstream areas. Finally, silt fences can be used at grade breaks on cut or fill slopes and above interceptor dikes, berms, channels, or ditches. Fiber wattles can be used at the toe of the slope perimeter and should only be used to capture sediment where there are small areas, such as narrow strips of land to be drained. Fiber wattles are especially effective in cases where sediment needs to be captured on projects where curbs, gutter, or sidewalks are installed. Fiber wattles can also be used around the perimeter of wetlands or other sensitive areas that need protected from sediment. Vegetative buffer strips (as a perimeter protection) are utilized onsite where vegetation is being left undisturbed downslope. Fiber wattles placed upslope to the vegetative buffer strip is a good combination to capture sediment.

BMP of the Quarter

